

Service Date: September 19, 1996

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application of)	
U S WEST Communications, Inc. to)	
Discontinue Centrex Plus Service,)	UTILITY DIVISION
)	
and)	
)	
IN THE MATTER of the Application of)	DOCKET NO. D96.2.15
PTI Communications to Discontinue)	
Digitrex II Service.)	ORDER NO. 5905b

ORDER ON STIPULATION AND MOTION VACATING HEARING,
ESTABLISHING RECORD AND ESTABLISHING BRIEFING SCHEDULE

On September 12, 1996, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST), one of the applicants in this proceeding, filed a Motion requesting the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) to issue an order deeming this matter submitted to the Commission upon a stipulated record, vacating the hearing scheduled to commence on September 18, 1996, and that the matter be deemed submitted to the Commission for decision on the stipulated record of the active parties. The active parties¹ in this Docket have orally agreed to stipulate to the testimony of the parties, subject to a pending motion made by AT&T to strike portions of the prefiled testimony of U S WEST witness Karen Baird.

In a work session held on September 17, 1996 the Commission considered U S WEST's Motion, and voted to grant the Motion as set forth in this Order and to accept U S WEST's proposed

¹ U S WEST, AT&T Communication s of the Mountain States (AT&T), MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI), and Northwestern Telephone Systems, Inc. d/b/a PTI Communications (PTI) submitted pre-filed testimony supporting their positions and the Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) has the duty to represent consumer interests in hearings before the Commission.

briefing schedule as modified herein. The Commission previously denied AT&T's Motion to Strike portions of Karen Baird's testimony and indicated that the Motion could be remade at the appropriate time during the hearing. AT&T's opportunity to make this Motion has been preserved and it may renew its motion along with its initial brief.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The remainder of the Procedural Schedule in this Docket is vacated;
2. The Commission will decide the issues in this docket on the following record:
 - a. The prefiled testimony of Karen Baird, Rebecca Bennett, Theodore Otis and John Blake;
 - b. All data requests and data responses of the witnesses listed in 2.(a.) except as may be stricken pursuant to a motion by AT&T; and
 - c. Other information which may be obtained pursuant to data requests the Commission intends to issue and receive answers to prior to briefing; and
 - d. Other information officially noted according to Montana law.
3. The parties shall submit briefs addressing the issues in this Docket according to the following schedule:
 - a. Simultaneous opening briefs due by October 11, 1996; and
 - b. Simultaneous answer briefs due by October 25, 1996.
4. The Commission will hear oral arguments from the parties on November 1, 1996, subsequent to the completion of briefing in this matter.

DONE AND DATED this 17th day of September, 1996 by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

NOTE: You may be entitled to judicial review in this matter. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days of the service of this order. Section 2-4-702, MCA.